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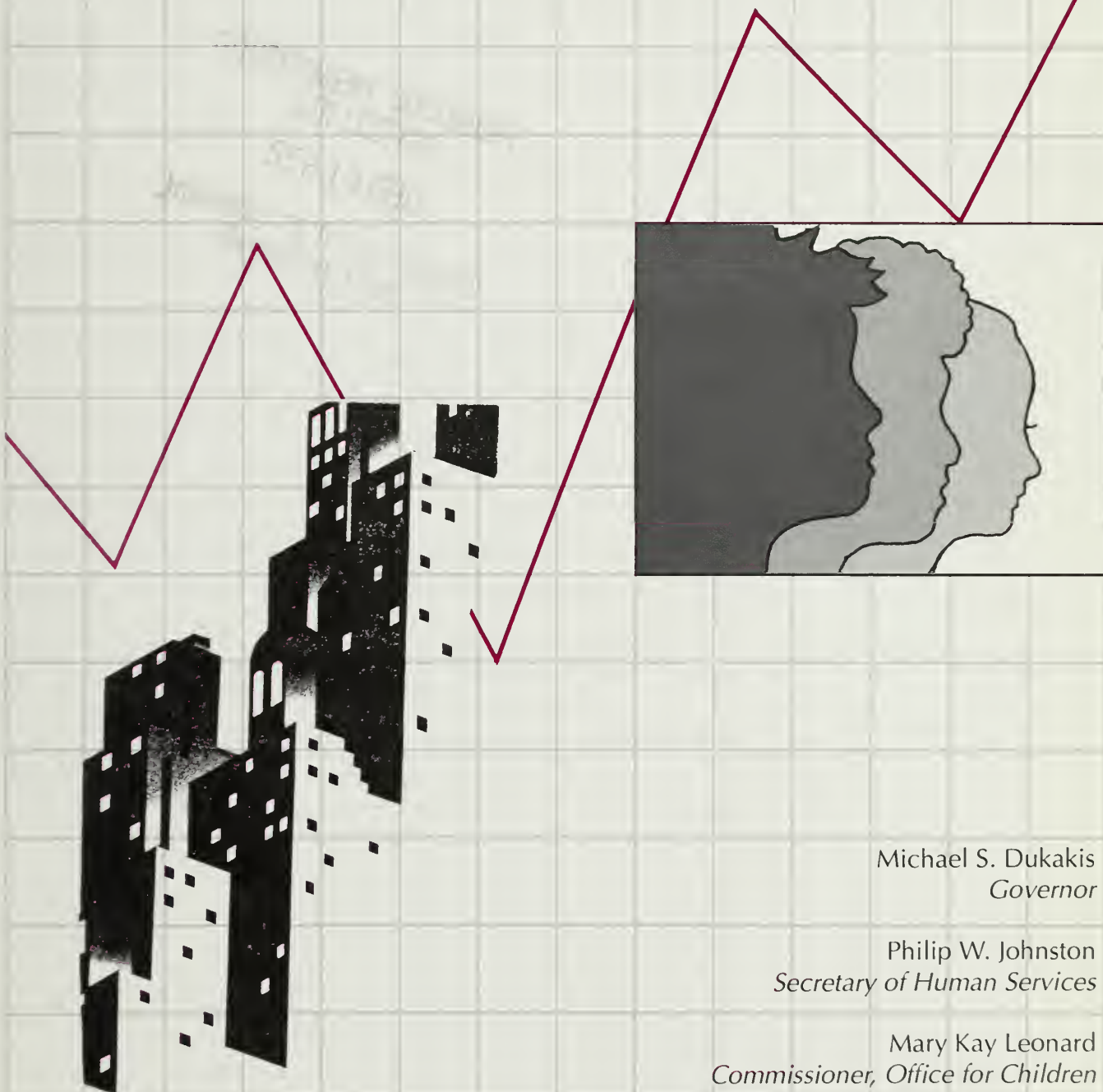
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Child Care in Massachusetts

FACTS & FIGURES

FY '89



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PREFACE

Since the Governor's Day Care Partnership Project issued its recommendations in 1985, Massachusetts has succeeded in making high quality child care more affordable and more available to the children and families in the Commonwealth.

There are 927,000 children under thirteen years of age in Massachusetts; 550,000 of these children live in families where all resident parents work outside the home. While some parents work alternate shifts and some mothers work part time to avoid the need for child care, 335,000 children across the state are cared for by adults other than their parents for some portion of each work day. As of June, 1989, there were 13,959 licensed child care programs in Massachusetts. The combined full-time capacity of these facilities was 146,705 and the total number of children enrolled either full-time or part-time, was 184,322.

CREATING MORE CHILD CARE

The child care industry in Massachusetts continued to grow in FY'89. Figures show an increase in the number of child care centers and family day care homes for children age seven years and under. While the system can accommodate an additional 12,263 children compared to last year, child care for infants, toddlers and school-age children remains in short supply.

Child Care Centers

According to the Massachusetts Office for Children (OFC) child care centers are responding to working parents' need for reliable care for nine or ten hours a day and to mothers who are returning to work before their children reach their first birthday.

- 2,000 licensed child care centers, an increase of 91 in one year, cared for a total of 102,622 children in FY'89.
- The number of centers operating on a full-day schedule rose by 100, from 1,117 to 1,217.

- Total enrollment increased by 8 percent, while the number of infants and toddlers enrolled increased 33 percent, from 8,074 in FY'88 to 10,711 in FY'89.
- A recent OFC survey reports that 69 percent of the licensed centers in the Commonwealth are non-profit facilities providing 70 percent of the total number of available placements; 31 percent operate as for-profit centers accounting for 30 percent of the total licensed slots available. The average non-profit center is licensed to care for 42 children, while the average for-profit center is licensed to care for 39 children.

Family Day Care Homes

During FY'89 the state's 10,708 licensed family day care homes cared for an estimated 61,300 children age seven and under.

- The number of licensed family day care homes rose by 15 percent from FY'88 to FY'89.
- The capacity of family day care homes increased by 7,498 slots.
- The Boston Zoning Commission amended the city's zoning code to conform with the state's zoning law which defines family day care as an allowable residential use. The Boston amendment eliminates a provision that required family day care operators to obtain a special permit. Deleting this lengthy and expensive permit process does away with a significant barrier to development of additional family day care homes in Boston and clarifies the position of the 770 residents currently licensed by OFC to provide this vital service.

School-Age Child Care Programs

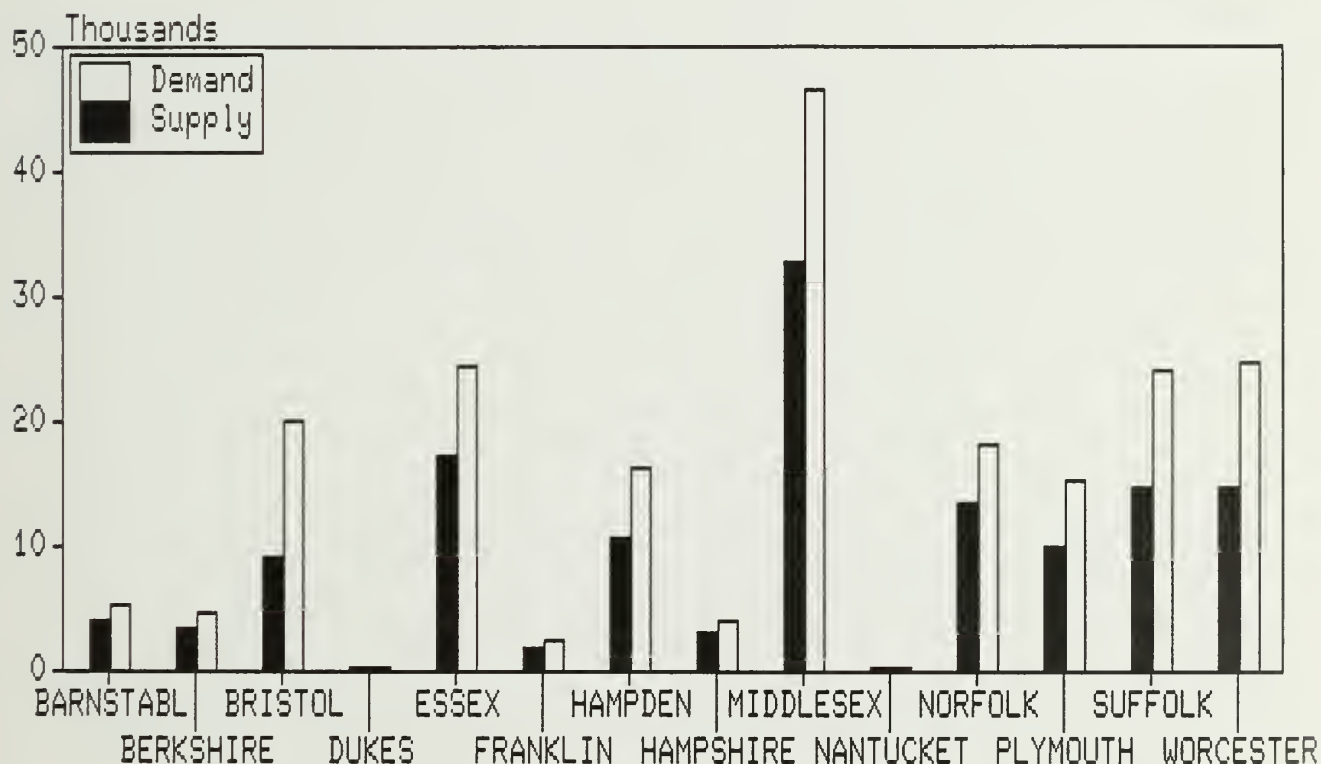
The increased demand for school-age child care services has prompted a growing interest in developing partnerships between and among parents, the child care community, public schools and local and state governments.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY AND DEMAND

COUNTY	CAPACITY		BIRTHS 1984-88	WORKING MOTHERS		
	GDC*	FDC**	Total	Percent***	Child<3	Child 3-5
BARNSTABLE	2,299	1,804	4,103	50%	1,682	1,362
BERKSHIRE	1,898	1,545	3,443	54%	1,758	1,531
BRISTOL	5,565	3,372	8,937	58%	7,732	6,076
DUKES	188	133	321	46%	113	63
ESSEX	10,219	6,829	17,048	50%	7,876	6,065
FRANKLIN	676	1,216	1,892	52%	874	703
HAMPDEN	6,296	4,333	10,629	49%	5,271	4,444
HAMPSHIRE	1,598	1,633	3,231	56%	1,487	1,336
MIDDLESEX	20,480	12,303	32,783	50%	15,089	12,215
NANTUCKET	244	34	278	68%	137	43
NORFOLK	8,095	5,263	13,358	47%	5,557	4,910
PLYMOUTH	5,934	3,948	9,882	47%	5,144	4,498
SUFFOLK	9,414	5,388	14,802	46%	6,057	4,821
WORCESTER	7,274	7,365	14,639	50%	8,082	6,429
Totals	80,180	55,166	135,346	50%	66,859	54,496

* Group Day Care ** Family Day Care *** Percentage of Working Mothers with children aged 0 - 5

The total 1989 licensed capacities of all group day care centers and family day care homes are listed above. The percentage of working mothers with children aged 0 - 5 and the number of working women with children with children under 3 and between 3 - 5 years are shown. The percentage of working women with children under 3 is lower than that of working women with children 3 - 5 (45.5% versus 55.5%). However, there are 12,000 *more* mothers and 95,000 *more* children in this category -- creating the critical need for infant/toddler day care we have seen in the last few years. **Below** is a comparison of child care availability and the number of children with working mothers by county.



- In FY'89 approximately 133,000 children between the ages of six and 12 years competed for the almost 17,000 spaces in 687 school-age child care programs.
- \$50,000 was awarded by OFC to twelve programs to open new or expand existing school age child care programs. More than 360 new school-age child care slots will be created with these grants.
- The Special Legislative Commission on Children in Need of Services issued its report, "Latch-Key Children: Who Really Cares?" in October, 1989. The Commission recommends immediate action be taken by state and local governments, communities, schools and employers working together to meet the child care needs of working parents of school-age children.

Employer-Supported Child Care Initiatives

Employer interest in providing some form of child care benefit for their employees continued to grow in FY'89 as companies recognized the need to support workers in meeting their family responsibilities. While flexible work arrangements and Dependent Care Assistance Plans (DECAP) are the two forms of child care assistance offered by the greatest number of companies in Massachusetts:

- more than 90 employers offered child care resource and referral services to employees;
- 94 companies house on-site child care centers;
- 81 firms have implemented dependent care spending accounts.

State Initiatives

The Office for Children's Statewide Advisory Council held a series of public forums across the state to stimulate discussion about the role of public schools in providing child care. The final report, published in June, 1989 calls for increased collaboration between public schools and the child

care community and recommends that more state resources be devoted to improving staff salaries and training and creating new child care programs, especially for school age children and children with special needs.

The Division of Capital Planning and Operations (DCPO) is the state agency charged with the goal of placing a day care center in every state-owned facility where there is a demonstrated need for child care.

In FY'89, DCPO:

- initiated projects which created 15 new programs for 621 children of state employees and students in the state's higher education system. A total of 37 child care programs operated in state facilities serving more than 1900 children.
- produced *The Child Care Center Workbook* to assist agencies and institutions interested in establishing on-site child care centers in the Commonwealth's facilities.
- developed the Small Projects Program to provide technical assistance to agencies to build their own child care centers. Through this program agencies are able to open centers for lower cost and in a shorter amount of time than would otherwise be possible.

The Department of Education (DOE) provided \$10 million to fund Chapter 188 Early Childhood Programs in 139 communities.

- 15,000 kindergartners and 5,000 preschoolers attended publicly run preschool, enhanced kindergarten and transition programs.
- Through DOE's State Head Start Salary Enhancement Program and the State's Head Start Expansion Program, \$6 million was appropriated by the state legislature to fund Head Start programs to serve an additional 456 children and offset the rising costs of running these programs. A total of 8,217 children participated in Head Start in the Commonwealth.

MAKING CHILD CARE AFFORDABLE

Child care is affordable when a family can pay for that care without sacrificing other basic necessities. Affordable child care allows families to remain, or become economically self-sufficient.

The High Cost of Care

Parents who need child care have to pay more for it than ever before. Over the past two years the average annual cost of child care in the state has risen by 13 percent: from \$7,325 for infants and toddlers in child care centers to \$8,277; from \$5,075 for preschoolers in centers to \$5,735 and from \$5,400 for children in family day care to \$6,102.

The burden of the rising cost of child care falls most heavily on low and moderate income families. Over half of the low income families in Massachusetts who use child care pay 10 percent or more of their income for that care; 39 percent pay 15 percent or more.

Day Care Affordability Task Force

In 1985, the Massachusetts legislature created a task force to document the cost of care and identify how much of a working family's annual income is spent on child care.

Since 1987, the Task Force has administered the Affordability Scholarship Assistance Program (ASAP) to assist families whose income ranged from 71 to 100 percent of the state's median income. The program provided an average of \$1,200 for a full year's aid to families.

In FY'89 the ASAP pilot continued to provide assistance to the original scholarship winners who remained eligible. In addition, the Task Force has:

- proposed the development of two demonstration projects which would match state funds with contributions from employers and philanthropies.

- released *Cooperative Solutions to the High Cost of Child Care* which describes potential solutions for bridging the affordability gap.

State Supported Child Care

State government spent \$150 million to subsidize child care for 32,034 children in FY'89:

- 10,170 graduates of the Department of Public Welfare's Employment and Training Choices program used child care vouchers to purchase care for their children.
- 13,700 low income children received child care subsidies through Department of Social Service (DSS) contracts with day care centers and family day care systems.
- another 4,000 children with protective or special needs attended child care programs under DSS's Supportive Day Care Program.
- over 400 teen parents and their children attended comprehensive child care programs specifically designed by DSS to meet their needs.

Cost of Care to Parents

The Office for Children estimates that parents spent another \$660 million on licensed care, approximately \$45 million on care provided by relatives and \$510 million for adult sitters or nannies who provided care for children in the child's home.

DEVELOPING QUALITY CARE

Continued public as well as private efforts to increase the supply of good affordable day care is essential in Massachusetts. By teaching parents how to recognize good child care, teaching child care workers new skills, continually updating our standards and making sure that day care workers have the right education and work experience, we can greatly improve the quality of child care in the Commonwealth.

In FY'89 Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to certify individuals to work in day care centers. The program received more than 4,000 applications during the first four months of implementation.

Training Opportunities

OFC's Statewide Training Advisory Committee has joined with the Department of Employment and Training's Commonwealth Careers Program, the Department of Education's Early Childhood Training Program and the Bay State Skills Corporation to pool funds and design innovative training programs to attract new workers to the day care field and encourage those already in the field to stay. Sparked by staff turnover rates that reached 45 percent in day care centers in the mid-1980s, this cooperative effort will fund seven new programs in FY'90.

During FY'89, over 16,500 child care workers participated in OFC-funded courses, conferences, workshops and seminars, up from 13,000 in FY'88:

- 2,100 individuals completed 75 courses in Early Childhood Education at 14 different colleges throughout the state;
- 13,400 attended workshops and other training sessions offered through the state's 12 OFC-affiliated Child Care Resource and Referral agencies;
- more than 800 attended working conferences for family day care providers; nearly 400 met at school age child care provider conferences.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

OFC's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Program provides base funding for local organizations to help parents find child care and teach them to recognize quality programs; offers training workshops and seminars for child care workers; assists employers, community groups and individuals in setting up or expanding child care services; and collects information on community child care needs.

- The resource and referral network was completed in February of 1987. Since then, a total of 12 non-profit organizations have offered a wide range of services at 21 sites throughout the state.
- In FY'89 the CCR&Rs handled 43,978 calls from parents, up from 35,203 in FY'88, a 25 percent increase. There were also 18,391 requests from employers, community agencies and individuals seeking help in setting up child care centers or employee benefit programs.
- A new brochure, "*Choosing Child Care*," was developed for parents by the CCR&Rs, OFC, WLVI-TV/Channel 56 in Boston and Zayre Corp. Part of a WLVI public education campaign, more than 200,000 copies of the brochure were distributed throughout the state by CCR&Rs, OFC field offices and 36 Zayre stores.

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